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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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TT O P S E C R E T 012348Z NOV 72 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY VIA BUNKER CHLS
NOVEMBER 1, 1972
FOR: AMBASSADOR BUNKER
FROM HENRY A. KISSINGER
CITE WHS 2310

THE PRESIDENT WAS ASTONISHED AND OUTRAGED THAT THIEU SHOULD, WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, REFER TO THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AS A SURRENDER DOCUMENT. DURING THE NEXT MEETING WITH THIEU, YOU SHOULD BRING THIS FORCEFULLY TO HIS ATTENTION AND YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXAGGERATE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THIEU'S AND LAM'S STATEMENTS ARE RECEIVED HERE, ESPECIALLY AT THIS SENSITIVE TIME. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WHATEVER DOMESTIC GAIN THIEU MAY THINK HE IS ACHIEVING THROUGH SUCH STATMENTS ARE MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE SHARP LOSS OF THE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT HE SUFFERS HERE. THIEU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THIS PROCESS IS NEARING THE POINT OF NO RETURN.

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